RITUAL

OF THE

M. C. O. F.

ADOPTED AT THE

ANNUAL CONVENTION

.. 1898 ..

RITUAL

OF THE

Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

COMPOSED BY

JAMES J. McLAUGHLIN.

Copyright applied for.

1898.

OFFICERS.

Chief Ranger, Vice Chief Ranger, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Senior Conductor, Junior Conductor, Inside Sentinel, and Outside Sentinel.

The Chief Ranger at the begining of his term of office will appoint a Marshal or Master of Ceremonies.

PRAYER.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

O God who has united the love of our neighbor with the love of Thee, as branches of the same divine virtue of charity; and who hast appointed the exercise of it as the mark of our being Thy disciples, grant us grace to fulfil this essential duty in all its parts. We beseech Thee to bestow all those necessaries of soul and body which we beg for ourselves on all our fellow creatures.

We forgive, from the bottom of our hearts, every one that has offended us, even as we pray that Thou wouldst forgive us our sins.

We beseech Thee to reclaim all those who are bewildered in error or vice, and to deliver all mankind, equally with ourselves, from the dangerous occupation of offending Thee, and from every evil in this world and the next.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

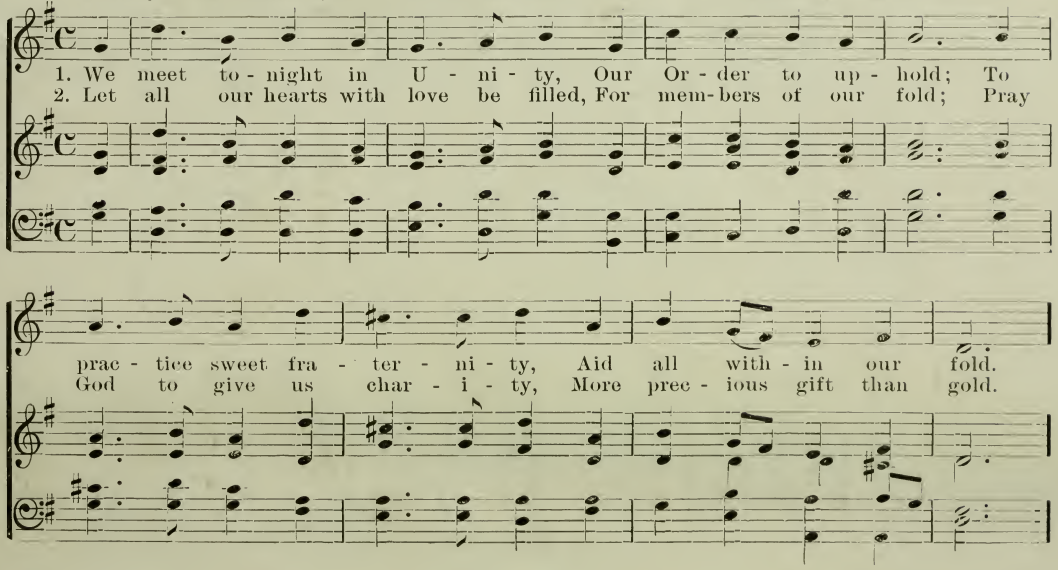
Our Father. Hail Mary.

C. R.–Let us all join in singing the Opening Ode.

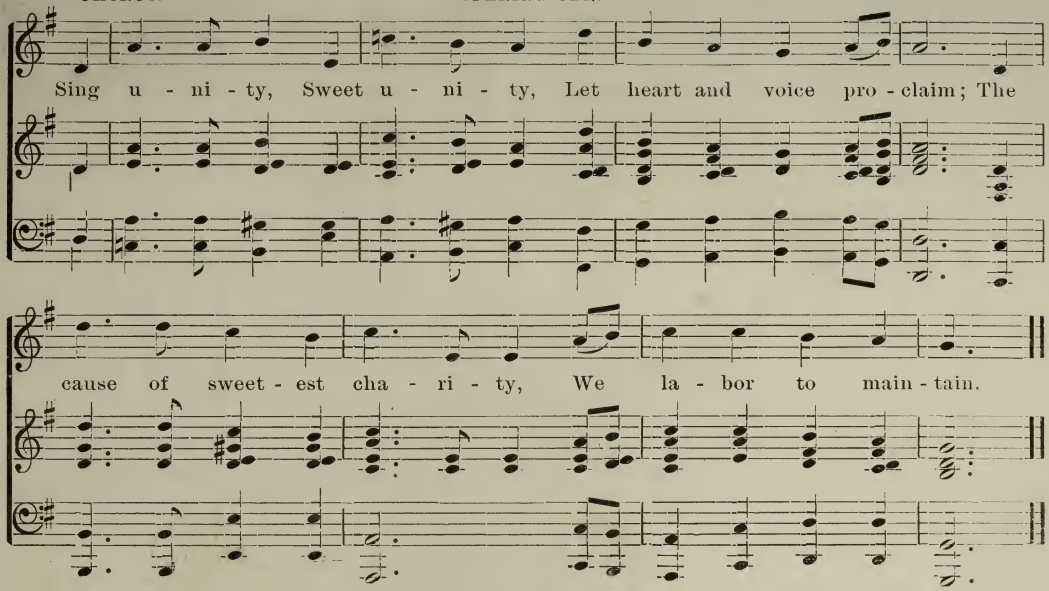
I now declare this Court open for the transaction of its appropriate business, and the dissemination of the principles of Fraternity, Unity aud True Christian Charity.

OPENING ODE.

Words by J. J. McLaughlin, Sr. Music by J. J. McLaughlin, Jr.



CHORUS. OPENING ODE.



ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening Ceremonies.
2. Reading of Records of previous meeting.
3. Reception of Proposals for Membership.
4. Reinstatement of Suspended Members.
5. Report of the Investigating Committee.
6. Balloting for Candidates.
7. Initiation of Candidates.
8. Bills read and referred.
9. Communications read and disposed of.

(On the receipt of a Death Call from the High Standing Committee after the reading of the same by the Secretary, the Chief Ranger will read the Prayers for the Dead.)

10. Report of Relief Committee.
11. Report of Members sick or in distress.
12. Reports of Officers.
13. Report of Auditing Committee.
14. Reports of Special Committees.
15. Election of Officers.
16. Unfinished Business.
17. Installation of Officers.
18. Suspension of Members.
19. New Business.
20. Good of the Order.
21. Closing Ceremonies.

INITIATION CEREMONIES.

C. R.—Brother Secretary are there any candidates for initiation?

R. S.—Chief Ranger, I have received instructions from the High Standing Committee that the application of Mr.——, has been duly approved, and he having been elected by ballot, is eligible for admission to our Order.

C. R.—Worthy Secretary, you will announce the names of the brothers who have proposed Mr.——.

R. S.—Chief Ranger, Bros—— and —— are the sponsors for the applicant having endorsed his application paper.

(They rise in their places as names are announced.)

C. R.—Bros.——— and——— do you still deem the candidate morally worthy to be admitted to our Order?

Response.—Chief Ranger, we still believe him worthy.

C. R. —Marshal, you will please escort the Financial Secretary to the ante-room.

C. R.—Financial Secretary, you will retire to the ante-room and collect the full balance due from the candidate and report.

(Marshal with Financial Secretary retire to ante-room, saluting Chief Ranger as they pass, return to Court Room, salute Chief Ranger.)

F. S.—Chief Ranger, I have received the full balance due from the candidate amounting to the sum of $——.

(Salute and under escort of Marshal return to position, Marshal returning to centre, salutes and awaits orders)

C. R.—Marshal, you will escort the Conductors to the ante-room where they will prepare the candidate, and present him to the Vice Chief Ranger for instructions.

(Marshal and Conductors retire to ante-room after saluting Chief Ranger and Vice Chief Ranger and upon being presented to Candidate the Senior Conductor says:)

S. C.—Sir, do you still desire to be enrolled as a member of our Order and be faithful to its laws and decrees?

CANDIDATE.—I do.

(The Senior Conductor blindfolds candidate, who will remain blindfolded till the final obligations by the Chief Ranger, and raps loudly on inner door.)

I. S.—Vice Chief Ranger an alarm is sounded.

V. C. R.—Inside Sentinel seek the cause and report to me.

I. S.—Who seeks admission?

S. C.—Our worthy Marshal with a stranger who desires membership in our Order.

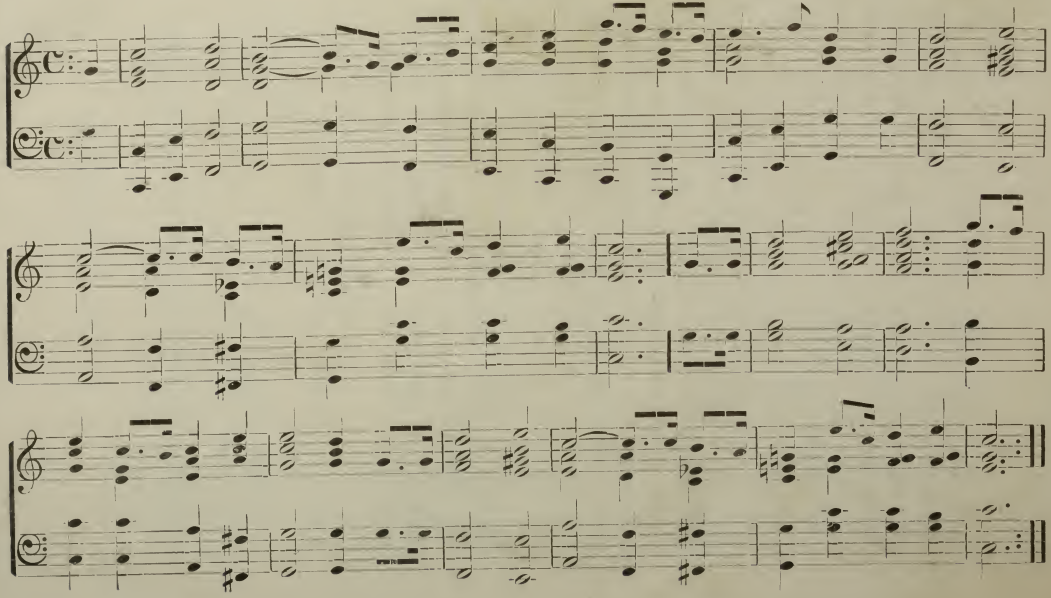
(Inside Sentinel closes wicket.)

I. S.—The alarm is by our worthy Marshal and his Aids who have a stranger seeking protection and membership in our ranks.

V. C. R.—Our doors are opened to the worthy you will admit them.

MARCH.

Composed by J. J. McLaughlin, Jr.



(Enter Court Room Conductors on each side, Marshal in front and advance to centre where the Marshal says Chief Ranger, and all salute.)

(Low Music.)

C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will present the candidate to our esteemed Vice Chief Ranger for instructions.

(Marshal and Conductors salute, wheel and march around the hall to stand in front of Vice Chief Ranger, salute.)

(Music.)

S. C.—Esteemed Vice Chief Ranger, I have the pleasure of presenting to you Mr. ———, who seeks admission to our beloved Order, having been vouched for as worthy, and has received the approval of the High Standing Committee.

V. C. R—Sir our Order is one of Love, Charity, and Unity. We are bound together by the bonds of Brotherly Love to aid and assist each other in all stations and conditions of life, wherever placed, requiring only that the aid sought be lawful, moral and worthy. We teach a broad and generous charity, not only in deeds, but also in our words and actions towards our Brothers, striving ever to look with kindly eyes and loving hearts upon each other, succoring each when in distress; rejoicing with and aiding them when prosperity shines. We surrender our individual views when the interest of the whole body require it, thereby producing unity of action, unity of purpose and advancing the good work of the Order. Do you still desire union with our brotherhood?

CANDIDATE—I do.

V. C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will escort the candidate to our esteemed Treasurer.

(Salute. Music. Marshal and Conductors with candidate march slowly to music around the centre, stand and halt before Treasurer and salute, Marshal saying "worthy Treasurer.")

TREASURER.—Worthy Marshal and Aids.

S. C. — Worthy Treasurer, in obedience to instructions from our esteemed Vice Chief Ranger I present Mr.———, for instructions, he being deemed worthy of membership in our Order.

T.—Sir, in seeking fellowship with our Association you must, before entering therein, firmly determine to leave all malice, enmity and ill-will behind, resolve to be actuated by only motives of good will, kindness and brotherly regard, ever laboring to advance and aid your brothers in their moral and material welfare. Selfishness has no abiding place in our ranks, we demand fidelity to each other and from each other thus making us a compact body of brothers, producing Unity and Fraternity in which all have an abiding interest. Fidelity to each other begets a communion of interest that aids all in the battles of life. With these conditions presented, are you still desirous of union with our Order?

CANDIDATE.—I am.

T.—Worthy Marshal, you will please conduct the candidate to the centre, where our honored Chief Ranger will administer the obligation of our Order.

(Music. March.)

(Marshal and Conductors march around the hall after saluting Treasurer, to centre, stand facing Chief Ranger and all saluting, Marshal says:)

M.—Honored Chief Ranger, instructions having been given to Mr.—— ——, by our esteemed Vice Chief Ranger and worthy Treasurer, he now presents himself, requesting full admission to membership in the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters.

• • •

(Chief Ranger calls up the Court and under escort of Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary descends to the stand in centre)

S. C.—Honored Chief Ranger, Mr. ———, still desires to be admitted to our Order and is ready to obey its laws and decrees.

C. R.—Sir, our Order is a garden in which the flower of charity is constantly in bloom, ever sending forth its fragrance amongst its members and their kindred, inspiring them with generous thoughts and prompting them to noble deeds. Into this fold whose portals are ever open to the worthy, we give welcome, confirmed in the assurance that those who seek admission are ready and willing to conform to our laws and ready to render aid and succor to all who are of our fold. In uniting with us, your interests become our concern and our interests commands in return your fidelity. Do you still wish to enter?

CANDIDATE.—I do.

(At this point the First Doubter speakes.)

(This portion may be omitted, and the obligation on page 19 administered.)

First Doubter.—Chief Ranger, I much regret, being compelled in the interest of our Order, to enter my protest against the admission of this man into our brotherhood, learning from good authority that he is not physically qualified for admission. I have been informed that he has been attacked by a sickness that has proved fatal many times and that he has concealed all information from the Medical Examiner for the purpose of gaining admission to our Order; and if this is true it is enough to warrant our rejection of him or at least a further physical test. My protest can be readily proved by a further medical examination, which I now demand before admitting him to full membership.

Second Doubter.— Chief Ranger, when I pledged myself in my obligation at the time I was initiated, to always protect the Organization against fraud of any kind, and to guard us against any but worthy and upright men, I gave my pledge upon my honor, and feel now that my pledge and my duty compel me to add my protest against the admission of this applicant. It is general report that his habits and practices are of such a character that we as honest men condemn, and as good Catholics cannot encourage. In view of such conditions, I also protest with my worthy Brother, for I learn that the applicant has much to answer for in the years gone by, that should be fully explained before his admission to the honor of brotherhood.

C. R —Sir, in face of these protests against your membership, I must withold further proceedings until they are by you demonstrated to be without foundation. Worthy Marshal, you will retire with your Aids, and prepare the candidate for the crucial tests, which will prove his fitness for membership.

(Marshal, Conductors and candidate retire to ante-room. The Marshal and Conductors array the candidate in such garb as has been provided, mask, etc., and prepare such tests as are in use, such as a blowing machine for lungs, lifting machine for strength, goat riding, ladder climbing, electricity tests, etc. When prepared the Marshal sounds the alarm.)

I. S.—Who comes here?

M.—The officers with candidate.

I. S.—Vice Chief Ranger, the officers with the candidate.

V. C. R.—Admit the officers.

(Marshal and Conductors with candidate march in and around the room to slow music, lights down low, and the members as he passes muttering threats and a grumbling noise while they make a circuit of the room the music being a grumbling discordant rumble noise. He is then subject to the tests by the Marshal and Conductors, such words as are used, being of a threatening character and tone viz: you said you were sound in your lungs—let me see you blow this tester up—harder—no good—harder—stronger—you sound, guess not—could not blow up a fly, such like talk. After tests examined by Chief Ranger on any points concerning his past, the more absurd the better. At conclusion of which Marshal says:)

M.—Chief Ranger, Mr.—— has fulfilled the tests and I await your further orders.

C. R.—Marshal, the candidate having proven his physical and moral worth you will retire and prepare him for the final ceremonies.

(Marshal and Conductors retire with candidate.)

(Marshal knocks for admission)

I. S.—Vice Chief Ranger, Marshal with candidate.

V. C. R.—You will admit them.

(Marshal, Conductors and candidate enter to slow music march around the room and rest at the centre rostrum.)

• • •

(Chief Ranger under escort of Recording and Financial Secretaries advances to rostrum.)

C. R.—Do you still desire union with our Order.

CANDIDATE.—I do.

C. R.—You will raise your right hand and repeat this obligation.

I ———, do solemnly and of my own free will and desire, pledge my sacred word and honor to faithfully perform all duties imposed upon me by the laws, decrees, instructions, ceremonies and usages of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, that I will at all times conduct myself in an upright, honorable and moral manner as becoming a member of our holy Catholic Church and avoid on all occasions the giving or encouraging of scandal of any form or nature to the end, that truth, morality and brotherly love may be fostered and encouraged.

I pledge myself to keep secret all transactions of this Court, to hold them inviolate and on no occasion to discuss, divulge or expose the affairs of the Order in public or in the presence of those not members of the Order (except to my confessor) and will remind, chide and warn any brother whom I think is violating this obligation.

I still further pledge my sacred word and honor as a man of truth that I will at all times when not in conflict with my duties as a Catholic, aid, assist, help, protect and succor any deserving brother in distress, sickness or want, and I will render aid to advance the material prosperity of a brother member in the walks of life.

C. R.—I now give you our password which entitles you to entrance to any Court of our Order, where brotherly affection stands ready to greet you.

C. R. — Worthy Marshal, you will instruct Brother, ———, in the recognition grip, the use of the password, how to enter and retire and the giving of the salutation.

(Chief Ranger returns to rostrum.)

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(Marshal and Conductors salute Chief Ranger after he returns to his rostrum, instruct Candidate, return to centre with aids and Candidate, and salute. Music.)

M.—Chief Ranger, the brother has been duly instructed.

C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will now escort Brother ——, to our esteemed Past Chief Ranger who will give the closing admonition.

(Music.)

(Marshal salutes; March around the hall to Vice Chief Ranger, salutes, thence to Past Chief Ranger.)

M.—Esteemed Past Chief Ranger, Brother ——, has this night been duly initiated as a member of this Court and is hereby presented to you for admonition and congratulation.

P. C. R.—Worthy Brother, to-night you have taken upon yourself a solemn obligation to which I may in a few words call your attention.

In this pledge you have given to us, there is no false ring to it, it means all that it says and it behooves all here present and you personally to always keep it in view. We want no half hearted, halting stammering fidelity but the pure article unadulterated. You are bound to help a brother in what concerns his welfare, show that you mean brotherly love by your actions. Where trade is to be given and a brother in business throw your mite to him.

It is to him your Court will appeal should you become distressed and it is your bounden duty to aid him first, above all others. Should there be among us one who is aspiring to a profession either in medicine, law, architecture, politics or literature, aid him, help him, encourage him, don't let petty malice or jealousy hamper you, but come forward manfully, openly and with a noble generosity; push him up the ladder; don't hang on to his skirts and drag him down; say, this is a Brother Forester and I will show him that my obligation was honestly made and now is my opportnnity to prove it and I will do it. This is Forestery with meat in it and it is the true meaning of your obligation, and, now sir in behalf of the Court, its officers and members, I welcome you to our ranks and pledge you the loving aid and hearty friendship of all Catholic Foresters, extending

to you the right hand of fellowship. I will ask you do you freely and of your own accord, pledge yourself to fulfill and carry out the obligations you have promised this night, without question or violation to their full extent?

CANDIDATE.—I do so pledge myself without reservation.

• • •

(Chief Ranger calls up Court, and the Past Chief Ranger clasping the hand of the candidate turns to the Court and says:)

P. C. R.—Brother Foresters, I take great pleasure in presenting to you our new Brother Mr.——.

Has he a hearty welcome?

MEMBERS.—Heartily welcome. APPLAUSE.

P. C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will escort the brother to the seat of honor.

(Which is a chair in front of the Marshal's rostrum.)

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(Chief Ranger gives one RAP, after singing of Initiation Ode.)

Words by J. J. McLaughlin, Sr.

INITIATION ODE.

Music by J. J. McLaughlin, Jr.

1. Sing, { brothers, / sis - ters, Sing, Kind words of love Each voice with joy will ring, . . . Our
2. Let Cha - ri - ty, Our mot - to be, In uni - on we will stand, . . And

pledge re - new, with Hearts so true, Firm to our Or - der cling.
prac - tice true fra - ter - - ni - - ty, With Loy - al Heart and Hand.

CLOSING CEREMONIES.

C. R.—Financial Secretary, I will thank you to name the receipts of the evening.

(Financial Secretary announces receipts, which Recording Secretary enters on the minutes.) ● ● ●

C. R.–Officers and Members: I thank you for your attendance this evening, and solicit your continued presence as the best method to promulgate our Order. The business we have transacted, and the sympathies we ha cherished, will contribute, I trust, to our individual and mutual advantage and to the advancement of the principles of Unity and Brotherly Love. Let us retire with kindly feelings towards each other. Remember your duties, and be zealous in doing good.

Prayer.—In the name of the Father, etc. O God, of whose mercies there in no number, and of whose goodness the treasure is infinite, we humbly thank Thee for the gifts Thou hast bestowed upon us, continue Thy mercy to us, and give us so much of Thy temporal blessings as Thou knowest will be for our good.

Grant that the fruits of the earth, may, by Thy holy blessing, increase and multiply, defend them from all storms and tempests, and what ever else may be hurtful to them. It is from Thy hand only we look for succor, and to Thee we have recourse in all our necessities, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary.

(After the singing of the Good Night Ode, the Chief Ranger will declare the Session closed.) ●

Words by J. J. McLAUGHLIN, Sr.

"GOOD-NIGHT."

Arranged by J. J. McLAUGHLIN, Jr.

Good-night to all, a kind good-night, For homes of love we part; Our la - bors o'er, Our

With kind - est thoughts de - part,

spir - its bright, with joy in ev - 'ry heart. With kind - - est thoughts de - part For

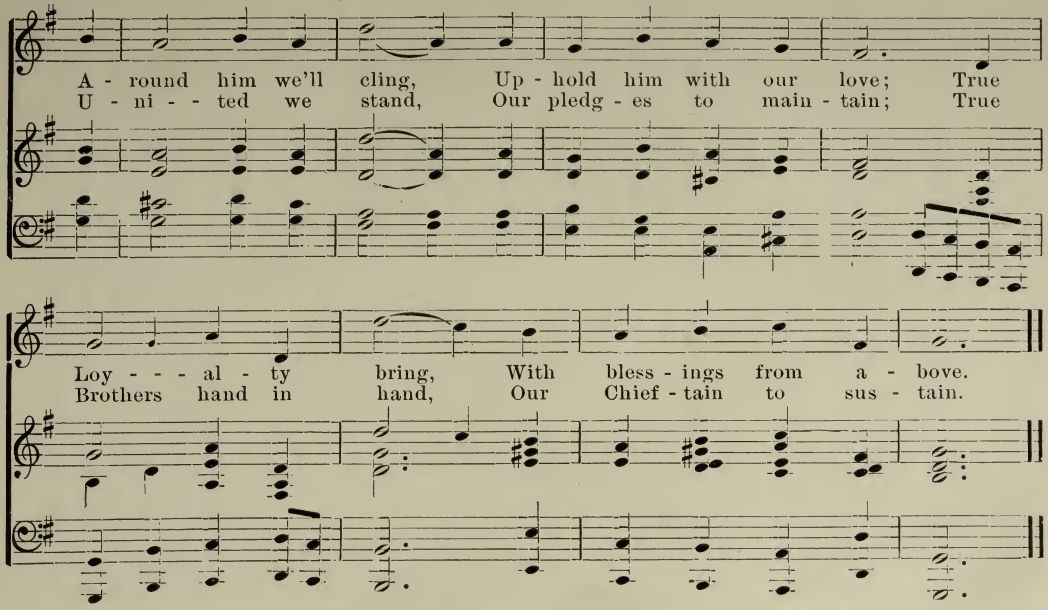
peaceful homes of love, Pray God inspire each members heart with grace from above. Good-night.

GREETING TO HIGH OFFICERS.

Words by J. J. McLaughlin, Sr. Music by J. J. McLaughlin, Jr.

1. All Hail to our Chief! The lead - er of our band, Thrice wel - - come is he, We greet him Heart and hand.
2. All Hail to our Chief! We'll fol - low where he leads, In cha - - ri - - ty's cause, True hearts in word and deed.

GREETING TO HIGH OFFICERS.



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

C. R.—Brothers. The term for which you elected me having expired and my relation as your presiding officer about to close I wish to return to you my heartfelt thanks for the honor you conferred upon me in electing me to the honorable position of Chief Ranger. And also for the courtesy shown me during the term by all, and especially for the kindly manner in which my shortcomings have been overlooked. I will go into the ranks and do my best to build up and foster the interests of —— Court.

(The Marshal will ascertain if the Deputy High Chief Ranger is in waiting.) (Marshal retires and returns and reports.)

M.—Chief Ranger, our worthy Deputy High Chief Ranger with his staff is in the lobby prepared to install the officers.

C. R —The worthy Marshal will escort the worthy Deputy and his Aids to the platform.

(Marshal retires and raps for entrance.)

I. S.—Chief Ranger the Deputy High Chief Ranger and Staff under escort of the Marshal.

(Chief Ranger gives FOUR RAPS.) ● ● ● ●

C. R.—The Sentinel will open our doors to our honored Deputy.

(Marshal and Conductors march in with Deputy to music, salute from centre and then advance to chief Ranger.)

The Chief Ranger receives the Deputy and surrenders the chair to him saying: Brothers, I am pleased to present our worthy Deputy High Chief Ranger Bro. —— who will now conduct the Ceremonies of Installation. APPLAUSE.

(Deputy High Chief Ranger takes the chair.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will escort the Chief Ranger to the Past Chief Ranger's rostrum, and the Past Chief Ranger to the retiring Officer's seat.

(The Deputy then seats the Court, and gives his address.)

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D. H. C. R.—Esteemed and beloved Foresters: the year just closed on our Order has been one of unexampled prosperity for which we should be thankful to Him who governs all. Death has dealt leniently with us and lightened our labor and our taxes; our increase has been all that the most zealous Forester could hope for and much in excess of any year, in our history; let us all continue our zeal and endeavor to make the coming year one that will be a pride to all and one that will extend the great work we all love to the thousands that are yet out of our ranks, but who need the protection that our Order gives. "Work All" that our Order be advanced in usefulness, and that Fraternal Love and Charity may find firm and devoted advocates, in every town and village in this good old Commonwealth of ours.

D. H. C. R.—The High Conductors will collect the regalia, staffs and books and prepare the Court for Installation of Officers. Officers will remain at their stations until their successors are installed.

The Recording Secretary will please read the names of the Officers elect, who report to Marshal.

(High Conductors seat them in front of Vice Chief Ranger, facing the Chief Ranger.)

D. H. C. R.—Have they been legally elected?

R. S.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, they have and the record approved.

D. H. C. R.—Has any brother cause to show why they should not be installed let it be now stated. There being none I declare them duly elected according to the laws of the Order.

D. H. C. R.—The High Conductors will now present the Sentinels elect for installation.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the Sentinels elect.

D. H. C. R.—You will raise your right hand and repeat the obligation of fidelity and duty.

I ———, do promise on my honor as a man to faithfully attend the meetings of this Court and perform all the duties of the office of Sentinel as laid down in the laws and rules of the Order, that I will keep secret all transactions of this Court, aid the Chief Ranger and Officers in maintaining order and render full obedience to the lawful authority.

Receive your staff of office and always remember the pledge you have now given and by your fidelity and zeal in the performance of your duty merit the commendation of your brothers who have confided to your care the guardianship of this Court Room.

The Marshal and Aids will escort you to your positions.

(Music. Salute.)

(Marshal and Conductors will after having placed them in their positions escort the retiring officers to seats prepared for them in front of Marshal's rostrum.)

(Marshal and Conductors return to centre and salute.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will now present the Conductors elect.

S. C.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, the Conductors elect.

D. H. C. R.—Brothers, please raise your right hand.

The duties of Conductors require their presence at all meetings of this Court, to aid in conducting the ceremonies, as defined in the ritual, and to assist the Chief Ranger in maintaining order and decorum; with this understanding of the office do you still desire to be installed into office.

Answer.—We do.

D. H. C. R.—You therefore each solemnly pledge your sacred word to faithfully perform the duties of Senior and Junior Conductor which are defined in the law, and at all times conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner that your brothers may with credit follow in your footsteps.

Answer.—We do pledge our honor.

D. H. C. R.—It is with pleasure that I invest you with the badge of office and proclaim you Senior and Junior Conductors of ——— Court No.—, until your successors are chosen and installed.

Let your zeal in the performance of your duty be such that your brothers will deem you worthy of higher honors.

Marshal, you will conduct the brothers to their stations.

(Music.)

(Marshal and Conductors escort them to their stations and return with retiring officers to the retiring seats then advance to centre, salute.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will present the Secretaries elect.

(Music.)

(Marshal and Conductors present Recording and Financial Secretaries elect.)

M.—Worthy Deputy, the Secretaries elect.

D. H. C. R.—Worthy Brothers, raise your right hand: your brothers have honored you by electing you to the important posts of the Recording and Financial Secretaryship whose duties are defined in the law book of the Order, and are such as to require fidelity. You are to faithfully record all transactions of this Court, legislative and financial, giving due credit to each brother (or members) for his performance and payments, notifying all of the duties required by our laws and making full report of the same to the High Standing Committee and the Court when required, and surrendering all funds, property and material in your possession at the end of your term, or before if required, to the legally

constituted authorities, which duties you solemnly promise on your honor to faithfully perform.

Answer.—We do.

D. H. C. R.—I now invest you with the emblem of your authority and place in your charge the books and documents of your office. Be faithful to your obligation, prompt in the performance of duty, and merit the honored title of true and worthy Foresters.

Our worthy Marshal will now escort you to your stations.

(Salute. Music.)

(Marshal and Conductors return to centre after escorting retiring officer to retiring bench.)

D. H. C. R.—Worthy Marshal, you will present the Treasurer elect.

M.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, Brother ——, the Treasurer elect.

D. H. C. R.—Worthy Brother, you will raise your right hand.

I ——, do on the sacred honor of a true Catholic Forester promise to faithfully guard and protect the funds of this Court and will render a true account of all money received by me belonging to the Court, and also of all payments made therefrom, and will surrender to my successor or to the legal authorities, all funds and documents belonging to the Court in my possession or under my control and for the faithful performance of this obligation I pledge my honor as a man and a Forester.

D. H. C. R.—I, by the authority invested in me clothe you in the badge of Treasurer and proclaim you Treasurer of ——— Court No. —, until your successor is chosen and duly installed.

Seek by your fidelity and accuracy in the conduct of your office to merit the approval of your confiding brothers.

Marshal you will escort the brother to his station

(Salute. Music.)

D. H. C. R.—Marshal, seating retiring officer with others you will now present the Vice Chief Ranger elect.

M.—Deputy High Chief Ranger, Brother ——, the Vice Chief Ranger elect.

D. H. C. R.—You sir have been selected by your brothers to fill the important position of Vice Chief Ranger of this Court, a place of honor second only to that of the Chief Rager, and your position demands that you study well the laws of the Order, and familiarize yourself with their bearing and intent. Your duty requires that you master the workings of the ritual and secret work, in so much that when in the absence of the Chief Ranger you may be called to preside, you may be fully equipped to conduct the Court with confidence and ability. In view of these duties are you still desirious of installation into that office? Answer.—I am.

D. H. C. R.—You will please raise your right hand and repeat your pledge of duty.

I———, in presence of my brother members do solemnly promise and pledge my sacred honor, to faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Vice Chief Ranger of this Court during the term of my election, and I further promise that I will not encourage nor permit any violation of the laws, usages or practices of the Order, and will at all times assist and aid the Chief Ranger in conducting the services and ceremonies as provided in the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Order. I pledge my honor to keep secret all transactions of the Court and the Order, and will rebuke any brother whom I find violating his obligation of secrecy by word or action. This I promise of my own free will and accord, and I will ever be true to the same.

D. H. C. R.—Feeling assured that your obligation will be faithfully kept, and that your brothers will honor you for your fidelity, I invest you with the badge of your office and install you Vice Chief Ranger of—— Court for the term of your election.

Marshal, you will escort the Brother to his station.

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(THREE RAPS. Music. After being in place, ONE RAP.)

(The Vice Chief Ranger having been placed, and the retiring Vice Chief Ranger escorted to seat in front of Marshal's position, the Marshal and Conductors return to the centre and salute.)

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D. H. C. R.—Marshal, you will please present the Chief Ranger elect.

(Marshal salutes and with Conductors march to the Chief Rangers stand, salute, right about and marches to the retiring officers positions, all of whom fall in couples behind. All march to end of hall. Marshal takes up Chief Ranger elect letting the escort form in line in front of him: two ranks lengthwise of the hall, facing the Deputy High Chief Ranger. The Deputy then calls up the Court, THREE RAPS, and the escort marches to him with the Marshal and Chief Ranger elect in the rear. Salute Deputy, open ranks, facing each other, six feet apart. Marshal and Chief Ranger elect passing through the ranks to the Deputy and salute.)

(Music low and slow all through above.)

Marshal.—Worthy Deputy, it is my pleasure and honor to present to you Bro. ——— who has been legally elected by the members of ——— Court to the honorable position of Chief Ranger for the term now commencing, and in behalf of the Court request you to install him into that position and proclaim the same.

(The Deputy seats the Court, the escort form in a circle around the Marshal, and the Deputy High Chief Ranger proceeds.)

D. H. C. R.—Honored Brother: your brothers have given a signal proof of their confidence in your justice and ability by selecting you to preside over their destinies for the incoming term. A position of honor, trust and responsibility, and one requiring cool judgment, tact and discreetion, and a thorough knowledge of the laws, rules and usages of the Order, for in your hands lies the future success and prosperity of the Court. You will please raise your right hand and give pledge of your fidelity to the laws and duties of your office.

I, freely and of my own accord, do in the presence

of this Court solemnly pledge my sacred honor to conduct the meetings and services of this Court in strict compliance with the rules and regulations as provided in the laws of the Constitution and Book of Forms, and I will not permit any violation of said laws rules and regulations to be made by any member of the Court or of the Order during the term of my election.

I further pledge myself to advance the interests of this Court and my Brother Foresters by all honorable means within my power, to keep secret and inviolate all transactions of this Court and the Order, and to punctually report to the proper authorities any violation of a Forester's obligation that may come to my knowledge. I further promise that on all questions before the Court, to be impartial and just in my ruling, rendering to each member a just and fair hearing without favor or bias.

I solemnly pledge myself to defend the good name of the Order or of a Brother thereof, on all occasions, to the end that malice and scandal may be banished, and charity, good will and brotherly love may be encouraged, practiced and prevail throughout our beloved Order.

(Turning to the Court he says:)

These pledges I conscientiously and sincerely give you, and I earnestly pray that God may assist me in keeping them in word and deed.

(Turns to the D. H. C. R.)

D. H. C. R.—Brother : your sincerity and the firmness of your vows is worthy of one about to assume the honorable office to which you have been chosen and I take pleasure in investing you with the emblem of Chief Ranger of ——— Court No. —, clothed with full power and authority. Be just to all that all may praise your justice and extoll your virtues Renew at each successive meeting the vows you have given this night and success will crown your work, peace and happiness prevail, and renown will be your crown.

With prayers for your success, I with great pleasure install you as the Chief Ranger of ——— Court No.—. ODE—HAIL TO OUR CHIEF.

• • •

D. H. C. R.—Chief Ranger, call up the Court.

Brothers of ——— Court, the Officers of your choice are now duly and legally installed in their respective positions and the future of the Court intrusted to their care Their success will be the measure you will gauge them by at the end of their service. It is now your solemn duty to aid and assist them in all cases, to insure the success that all desire to follow the efforts of ——— Court. Study then to uphold and strengthen your Officers in their endeavor to advance the interests of all by increasing your members, by cultivating brotherly love and by promoting the growth of True Uuity, True Fraternity and True Christian Charity.

INSTITUTION OF NEW COURTS.

H. C. R.—My Friends, we have met this night to organize a new Court of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, composed of you who are present, and to whom the Goverment of the Order has granted the necessary Charter.

Our Order has most worthy purposes constantly in view, and before proceeding, I may call your attention to these purposes, that you may before taking the obligation know full well our principles and understand the nature of the pledge you are called upon to make, and which you are bound in honor to maintain.

Our first purpose is to build an Organization of the people of our faith who will be pledge to stand by each other in all the vicissitudes of life, to aid each other in every way consistent with justice and morality, in sickness or distress, and thereby elevate each other in the material and moral world to the end, that our lives may be happier, our affection for each other developed and increased, and our moral nature enlarge and stimulated, making us better men and women and worthier children of our Holy Church.

Secondly, we give to each person who joins our body the assurance that the heirs of such person

shall be paid the sum of One Thousand Dollars upon proper proof of the death of same, providing he or she has discharged their financial obligations and are in good standing.

Thirdly, we teach our members the great good arising from being united in the loving bonds of Brotherhood and Sisterhood, wherein the distress of one is the concern of all, and where relief is rendered by loving hearts and willing hands.

Our doors are open to all of our faith between certain ages, only requiring that good health, clean morals and fidelity to our Church as the proper requisites for membership.

We teach Charity in every action and in every walk of life. Our principles and our Order frowns down malice, envy and spite, and cultivates the nobler attributes of the true christian, in that our lives may be purer, holier and more acceptable to God. Such are the principles that guide us and such demand your fidelity as members of our Order.

With this statement of principles I now declare this meeting open for the purpose of formally instituting——Court, No.—, of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, and to dedicate it to Unity, Fraternity and True Christian Charity.

H. C. R.—The High Conductors will now prepare the candidates for initiation. The High Secretary-Treasurer will read the names of the

applicants. The applicants will rise as their names are called and be assigned by the High Conductors.

(The High Senior Conductor after arranging the Candidates in one or more circles facing the High Chief Ranger, reports as follows:)

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, in obedience to your instruction, I take pleasure in reporting to you that I have — present applicants for admission to our Order, all of whom have been deemed worthy and have received the approval of the High Standing Committee.

H. C. R.—In pursuance of the duty as laid down in our laws, you will give your attention while the High Secretary-Treasurer reads our charter which will define your rights and privileges.

(High Secretary-Treasurer reads Charter.)

H. C. R.—I will now administer to you the obligation. You will please raise your right hand and repeat after me the pledge of secrecy and fidelity.

I ———, do solemnly and of my own free will and desire, pledge my sacred word and honor to faithfully perform all duties imposed upon me by the laws, decrees, instructions, ceremonies and usages of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, that I will at all times conduct myself in an upright, honorable and moral manner as becoming a member of our holy Catholic Church and avoid on all occasions the giving or encouraging of scandal of any form or nature, to the end, that truth, morality and brotherly love may be fostered and encouraged.

I pledge myself to keep secret all transactions of this Court, to hold them inviolate and on no occasion to discuss, divulge or expose the affairs of the Order in public or in the presence of those not members of the Order (except to my confessor) and will remind, chide and warn any brother whom I think is violating this obligation.

I still further pledge my sacred word and honor as a man of truth that I will at all times when not in conflict with my duties as a Catholic, aid, assist, help, protect and succor any deserving brother in distress, sickness or want, and I will render aid to advance the material prosperity of a brother member in the walks of life.

Our Conductors will now give the current password, which will be held sacredly secret by you on all occasions and given only when seeking admission to a Court of the Order, to regular Conductors when they are taking it up in the session or when the Chief Ranger of your Court requests it.

(The Conductors give to each candidate in a whisper, and then report to the High Chief Ranger.)

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the candidates are in possession of the password and await your further instruction.

H. C. R.—In obtaining admission to the sessions of any Court in the Order, you will approach the outer door and attract attention by knocking and the Outside Sentinel will open his wicket and ask,

"Who comes here?" you will reply saying, "a Forester," and then in a whisper give him the first part of the password; he will admit you to the lobby. You will then give three raps on the inner door, the Inside Sentinel will open his wicket and ask "Who seeks entrance?" you will give him your name and and the rest of the password. The Inside Sentinel announces your name to the Vice Chief Ranger, as Brother ——, with or without the password as the case may be. The Vice Chief Ranger instructs the Inside Sentinel to admit you; you then advance to the centre of the hall, salute the Chief Ranger thus ——, turn and salute the Vice Chief Ranger and retire to your seat. In retiring the same form is to be observed. These forms will be required in all Courts of the Order.

The use of the Gavel by the Chief Ranger is to call the attention of the members to the Chair and means as follows: ONE RAP calls the meeting to order. TWO RAPS calls up to standing position the Officers; THREE RAPS calls up the entire Court to standing position; FOUR RAPS calls all up for the reception of High Court Officers; ONE RAP means all to be seated. At the call of ONE RAP a member who is speaking will cease until told to proceed by the chair.

The High Conductors will now illustrate to you the secret mode of recognizing a Forester, when personally unknown to you.

(Both Conductors stand apart and give signs and answers.)

H. C. R.—I have instructed you in the secret work of our Order which I urge you to study well and become familiar with. I now extend to you in the name of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, a cordial welcome to our fold.

AT ALL TIMES REMEMBER the OBLIGATION you have SOLEMNLY GIVEN to the Order THIS NIGHT always practice the virtues of Charity and Fraternity that you may be looked up to as the true embodiment of a good christian, a loyal citizen, and an honored member of our beloved Order of Foresters.

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(After Initiation Ode is sung, High Chief Ranger seats the Court, and declares a recess of 15 minutes.)

INSTALLATION OF NEW COURT OFFICERS.

H. C. R.—The High Conductors will prepare for Installation of Officers.

(After arranging the chairs the High Senior Conductor says:)

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, I respectfully request that the High Secretary-Treasurer announce the names of the Officers elect.

H. C. R.—The High Secretary-Treasurer will announce the Officers elect, who will report to the Conductors and take the places assigned to them.

(After all are placed, the High Senior Conductor says:)

H. S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the Officers elect are prepared for induction into office, have they been constitutionally elected?

H. S. T.—High Chief Ranger, they have been chosen according to the law.

H. S. C.—I now proclaim them duly elected and eligible for installation.

H. C. R.—The High Conductors will now present the Sentinels elect for installation.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the Sentinels elect.

H. C. R.—You will raise your right hand and repeat the obligation of fidelity and duty.

I ———, do promise on my honor as a man to faithfully attend the meetings of this Court and perform all the duties of the office of Sentinel as laid down in the laws and rules of the Order, that I will keep secret all transactions of this Court, aid the Chief Ranger and Officers in maintaining order and render full obedience to the lawful authority.

Receive your staff of office and always remember the pledge you have now given and by your fidelity and zeal in the performance of your duty merit the commendation of your brothers who have confided to your care the guardianship of this Court Room.

The Conductors will escort you to your positions.

H. C. R.—You will now present the Conductors elect.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the Conductors elect.

H. C. R.—Brothers, raise your right hand.

The duties of Conductors require their presence at all meetings of this Court, to aid in conducting the ceremonies, as defined in the ritual, and to

assist the Chief Ranger in maintaining order and decorum, with this understanding of the office do you still desire to be installed into office.

Answer.—We do.

H. C. R.—You therefore each solemnly pledge your sacred word to faithfully perform the duties of Senior and Junior Conductor which are defined in the law, and at all times conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner that your brothers may with credit follow in your footsteps.

Answer.—We do pledge our honor.

H. C. R.—It is with pleasure that I invest you with the badge of office and proclaim you Senior and Junior Conductors of ——— Court No.—, until your successors are chosen and installed. Let your zeal in the performance of your duty be such that your brothers will deem you worthy of higher honors.

The Conductors will escort you to your positions.

H. C. R.—You will present the Secretaries elect.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, the Secretaries elect.

H. C. R.—Worthy Brothers, raise your right hand: your brothers have honored you by electing you to the important posts of the Recording and Financial Secretaryship whose duties are defined in the law book of the Order, and are such as to require fidelity. You are to faithfully record all transactions of this Court, legislative and financial,

giving due credit to each brother (or members) for his performance and payments, notifying all of the duties required by our laws and making full report of the same to the High Standing Committee and the Court when required and surrendering all funds, property and material in your possession at the end of your term, or before if required, to the legally constituted authorities, which duties you solemnly promise on your honor to faithfully perform.

Answer.—We do.

H. C. R.—I now invest you with the emblem of your authority and place in your charge the books and documents of your office. Be faithful to your obligation, prompt in the performance of duty, and merit the honored title of true and worthy Foresters.

The Conductors will escort you to your stations.

H. C. R.—You will present the Treasurer elect.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, Brother —— the Treasurer elect.

H. C. R.—Worthy Brother, you will raise your right hand.

I ——, do on the sacred honor of a true Catholic Forester promise to faithfully guard and protect the funds of this Court and will render a true account of all money received by me belonging to the Court, and also of all payments made therefrom, and will surrender to my successor or to the legal authorities all funds and documents belonging to

the Court in my possession or under my control, and for the faithful performance of this obligation I pledge my honor as a man and a Forester.

H. C. R.—I, by the authority invested in me clothe you in the badge of Treasurer and proclaim you Treasurer of ——— Court No. —, until your successor is chosen and duly installed.

Seek by your fidelity and accuracy in the conduct of your office to merit the approval of your confiding brothers.

The Conductors will escort you to your station.

H. C. R —You will now present the Vice Chief Ranger elect.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, Brother ——, the Vice Chief Ranger elect.

H. C. R.—You sir have been selected by your brothers to fill the important position of Vice Chief Ranger of this Court, a place of honor second only to that of the Chief Rager, and your position demands that you study well the laws of the Order, and familiarize yourself with their bearing and intent. Your duty requires that you master the workings of the ritual and secret work, in so much that when in the absence of the Chief Ranger you may be called to preside, you may be fully equipped to conduct the Court with confidence and ability. In view of these duties are you still desirious of installation into that office? Answer.—I am.

H. C. R.—You will please raise your right hand and repeat your pledge of duty.

I———, in presence of my brother members do solemnly promise and pledge my sacred honor, to faithfully perform all the duties of the office of Vice Chief Ranger of this Court during the term of my election, and I further promise that I will not encourage nor permit any violation of the laws, usages or practices of the Order, and will at all times assist and aid the Chief Ranger in conducting the services and ceremonies as provided in the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Order. I pledge my honor to keep secret all transactions of the Court and the Order, and will rebuke any brother whom I find violating his obligation of secrecy by word or action. This I promise of my own free will and accord, and I will ever be true to the same.

H. C. R.—Feeling assured that your obligation will be faithfully kept, and that your brothers will honor you for your fidelity, I invest you with the badge of your office and install you Vice Chief Ranger of—— Court for the term of your election.

The Conductors will escort you to your station.

H. C. R.—The Conductors will please present the Chief Ranger elect.

S. C.—High Chief Ranger, it is my pleasure and honor to present to you Bro.——— who has been legally elected by the members of——— Court to

the honorable position of Chief Ranger for the term now commencing, and in behalf of the Court request you to install him into that position and proclaim the same.

H. C. R—Honored Brother: your brothers have given a signal proof of their confidence in your justice and ability by selecting you to preside over their destinies for the incoming term. A position of honor, trust and responsibility, and one requiring cool judgment, tact and discreetion, and a thorough knowledge of the laws, rules and usages of the Order, for in your hands lies the future success and prosperity of the Court. You will please raise your right hand and give pledge of your fidelity to the laws and duties of your office.

I, freely and of my own accord, do in the presence of this Court solemnly pledge my sacred honor to conduct the meetings and services of this Court in strict compliance with the rules and regulations as provided in the laws of the Constitution and Book of Forms, and I will not permit any violation of said laws rules and regulations to be made by any member of the Court or of the Order during the term of my election.

I further pledge myself to advance the interests of this Court and my Brother Foresters by all honorable means within my power, to keep secret and inviolate all transactions of this Court and the Order, and to punctually report to the proper

authorities any violation of a Forester's obligation that may come to my knowledge. I further promise that on all questions before the Court, to be impartial and just in my ruling, rendering to each member a just and fair hearing without favor or bias.

I solemnly pledge myself to defend the good name of the Order or of a Brother thereof, on all occasions, to the end that malice and scandal may be banished, and charity, good will and brotherly love may be encouraged, practiced and prevail throughout our beloved Order.

(Turning to the Ccurt he says:)

These pledges I conscientiously and sincerely give you, and I earnestly pray that God may assist me in keeping them in word and deed.

H. C. R.—Brother: your sincerity and the firmness of your vows is worthy of one about to assume the honorable office to which you have been chosen and I take pleasure in investing you with the emblem of Chief Ranger of ——— Court No. —, clothed with full power and authority. Be just to all that all may praise your justice and extoll your virtues Renew at each successive meeting the vows you have given this night and success will crown your work, peace and happiness prevail. and renown will be your crown.

With prayers for your success, I with great pleasure install you as the Chief Ranger of ——— Court No.—. ODE—HAIL TO OUR CHIEF.

H. C. R.—Friends and Foresters: the ceremonies which constitute you a Court are now completed and I asked your undivided attention while our most worthy High Vice Chief Ranger outlines the duties which your obligation requires and which you have pledged to perform; listen to his words and let them sink deep into your hearts to remain there forever and be to you a constant reminder of your duty as a true Forester. I take pleasure in introducing High Vice Chief Ranger Brother——.

The High Vice Chief Ranger outlines in detail the course that members should adopt towards each other in all stations, how to aid and assist in building a true Brotherhood of loyal loving Brothers and Sisters, etc., and closes with congratulating and a cordial welcome to the new Court.

(The High Chief Ranger then close the ceremonies of institutions with this proclamation.)

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H. C. R.—I now by the authority in me vested, do officially proclaim——— Court, No.—, lawfully instituted and legally entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Subordinate Court of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, and may a loving God shower blessings upon their efforts to promote Unity, Fraternity and True Christian Charity.

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FUNERALS.

Upon receipt of notice of the death of any member in his Court, the C. R. with such other officers as are most convenient, will immediately proceed to the late residence of the deceased Brother, and do all in their power to comfort and assist the family, and if desired, make the necessary arrangements for the funeral. The C. R. will first ascertain the cemetery in which the deceased is to be interred, also the day and hour on which the funeral is to take place; he shall also ascertain the name and particulars of any other society to which the deceased may have belonged, and also if they wish to assist in making the necessary arrangements for the funeral, etc; he shall also direct the R. S. to call a special meeting of the Court, notifying each member of the day, hour and place of the funeral. The members should meet at least an hour before the time fixed for the funeral, dressed in dark clothes, white gloves, and black crape armlets. The C. R. shall also appoint four pall-bearers, who shall be dressed in dark clothes and black high silk hats, and before leaving the hall the members should be formed in two ranks, with the officers on the right, and in this manner proceed to the late residence of the deceased

Brother. Upon arriving the officers and pall-bearers will proceed to the room where the deceased is laid out and form a circle around the remains, with the C. R. at the head and the V. C. R. at the foot. In this position they shall kneel, and the following prayers may be recited by the Rev. Chaplain, or in his absence, by the C. R.

In the name of the Father, etc., etc.

Psalm cxxix.

Out of the depths I have cried to thee, O Lord: Lord hear my voice.

Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord, will mark iniquities, Lord, Lord, who shall stand it?

For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness; and by reason of Thy law, I have waited for Thee, O Lord.

My soul hath relied on His word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

From the morning watch, even unto night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him a plentiful redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

At the end of the psalm say:—

V. Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord. *℟.* And let perpetual light shine upon him. *V.* From the gates of hell. *℟.* Deliver his soul, O Lord. *V.* May he rest in peace. *℟.* Amen. *V.* O Lord hear my prayer. *℟.* And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us Pray.

To Thee, O Lord, we commend the soul of Thy servant, N. ——; that being dead to this world, he may live to Thee; and whatever sins he has committed through human frailty, we beseech Thee, in Thy goodness, mercifully to pardon, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that while we here lament the departure of Thy servant, we may ever remember that we are most certainly to follow him. Give us grace to prepare for that last hour by a good life, that we may not be surprised by a sudden death; but be ever watching when Thou shall call, that so with the spouse we may enter into eternal glory, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the name of the Father, etc., etc.

At the conclusion of which the members shall pass around the coffin and view the remains, and, with the exception of the officers and pall-bearers, shall pass out into the street and form line, with the

centre opposite entrance, and there remain until the coffin is placed in the hearse. The pall-bearers will then station themselves on each side of the hearse, and the members proceed to the front of the hearse and in this manner proceed to the church, or place of disbandment. Upon arriving at the church, the members will form line from the hearse to the entrance of the church, and open ranks so as to allow the remains to pass through the ranks, and remain with heads uncovered until the procession has passed through. They shall also form in the same manner in coming out of the church, and upon arriving at the place of disbandment, if they do not go to the grave, the procession will halt and open ranks in the same manner as at the church, and remain with heads uncovered until the procession has passed through their ranks. Should the procession march to the grave, the same ceremony will be gone through as at the house, after which the procession will disband or march to the hall, as previously agreed upon.

The C. R. should carry his gavel draped in mourning, and it should remain draped in mourning for the space of thirty days, as well as the Charter of the Court, and at the next regular meeting of the Court (in the order of business sick and distressed,) the Court should be signalled to rise, and the C. R. shall refer to the deceased Brother in such language as may be appropriate.